

The Mirror

OF

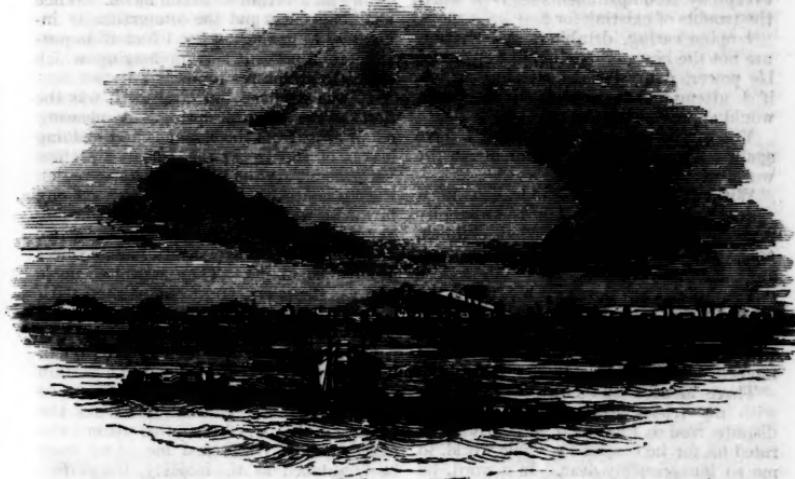
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

(PRICE TWOPENCE.)

No. 2.]

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1843.

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Original Communications.

SINGAPORE.

THE commerce of all the islands of the East Indian Archipelago now centres in Singapore, which was established at the southern extremity of the peninsula of Malacca, at the eastern opening of the straits of that name, in the year 1819, by Sir Stamford Raffles. Its position was so well chosen that it instantly became the great emporium of trade. But its importance is not limited to facilities of an ordinary character afforded to the trader. It has been found most convenient as a station to watch the motions of certain piratical savages in that vicinity, who were accustomed in their junks to assail the unprepared merchant with great barbarity. In several instances just vengeance has overtaken these bandits almost in the mo-

ment when they were exulting in their first success. The seas once so dangerous have, in consequence, been rendered comparatively safe.

The population of Singapore amounted, in 1824, to 10,683. Three years afterwards it was found to have reached 13,732; and on the first of January, 1830, to 16,634; being an advance in numbers, in the first six years, of more than 50 per cent.

It is a mixed population, consisting of Chinese, Malays, Bugis, natives of India, and a few Europeans, who are for the most part heads of mercantile houses. About 5,000 Chinese arrive there annually in their junks, of whom 1,000 commonly remain, and the others disperse among the neighbouring settlements. The articles dealt in are those of China, the Oriental islands, and the Indo-Chinese countries, with British cottons and the manufactures of England.

No. 1171]

C [VOL. XLII.

THE MOON-SEEKER.

A TALE FROM THE GERMAN, BY LUDWIG
TIECK.

LOUIS TO HIS UNCLE.

LETTER I.

My dear Uncle,—I have again set out on my travels, and know not where or where I shall halt. My life will not assume any permanent shape, and it perversely refuses to wend itself in the only direction I desire.

I know your objection to all exaggeration, to that which you term eccentric and unnatural; but if you investigate life and its motives, what is truth, with its every-day accompaniments? Is it worth the trouble of existing for?

I opine eating, drinking, and sleeping are not the bases of our life, but an invisible power, a mysterious striving, which, if I attempted to express it in words, would appear an absurdity.

Yes, my best, my dearest friend, I have again left my family, to roam about the world without any object.

Without object? Oh no! The most rational object, only that it is unhappily proceeded with in a somewhat childish, crazy manner; otherwise praiseworthy and sufficiently serious.

You know I am to marry because I am blessed with the favours of fortune. Well, I consent to it; only, the girl must be she whom my whole soul loves, and at this moment she is nowhere to be found.

Three months ago I disputed warmly with my friend Frederick Sebald; the dispute rose so high that it nearly separated us, for he despised a whole world, to me so inexpressibly dear. In a word, he abused the moon, and would not allow her enchanting splendour to be either beautiful or elevating. He quarrelled with everything sentimental in regard to the moon, as described by the poets, and he was almost ready coarsely to affirm, that if there were a hell, it was certainly situated in the moon. He asserted as his belief, that the entire body of the moon consisted of extinct volcanoes; water was not to be found there, and scarcely so much as a plant; and the pale, unpleasant reflection of a borrowed light brought us sickness, idiocy, spoilt fruits and flowers, and whosoever chanced to be mad would undoubtedly become raving at the full of the moon.

We no longer live in the year 1780 or 1775, in which years there was so much talk of moonshine; but even now, in 1827, I cannot endure that such abuse and calumny should be vented on my beloved Cynthia or Luna. What is to me that which the astronomers have discovered, or may still discover, in the moon? Have not even the cold, certainly unsentimental

Dutch pictured the effect of moonlight in their heavenly paintings? That sweet, peculiar illumination, how does it not vary with the season or the weather; how is it changed by the clouds, on the plain and on the mountains, on the stream or on the sea, in the damp, cold autumn, or the luxurious summer-night!

In my earlier wanderings I met with a wealthy Englishman, who only travelled to look at waterfalls and battle-fields. Strangely enough, although I have not wholly travelled to view the moonshine, still from my earliest youth I have always observed the effect of her light, have never missed a full moon in any neighbourhood, and fancy, that if not quite an Endymion, I am still a favourite of the moon. When she reappears, and the disc gradually increases, in gazing on her I find it impossible to repress a sort of longing which seems to attach me to her.

It was even so but lately. It was the first warm day of spring. A pleasing odour arose from the blossoms and budding leaves of the trees; the bushes were not yet green. As the full moon appeared on the mountain, I was lounging on my favourite walk by the brook, and regarding her with longing eyes; the ruins lay above in the clear light as I heard female voices in advance of me. They were two noble figures, strangers, and unacquainted with the road. I conducted them to their hotel, where an uncle awaited them.

On the way we had already said much. The taller of the two appeared to entertain the same opinions over most matters as myself. As we entered the room the beauty of Emily, for so this sister was called, almost frightened me. One may be frightened at the majesty, the perfection of beauty; indeed, one should be so, it is the most appropriate homage.

They congratulated themselves on having made my acquaintance, and insisted on my remaining to supper, after which, the night being so attractive, we again took a short walk. She accepted my arm, and I was happy; she appeared not less so, and returned the pressure of my hand. O, how radiant was her beautiful pale countenance in the moonlight! How glowing were her exquisitely formed lips!

I learnt that they were returning from Hamburg, whither they had travelled on account of an inheritance, to their residence by the Lake of Constance. They intended, however, to journey over Germany and Switzerland, to visit Strasburg and the Rhine. The following day was destined for a resumption of our walks and conversation; I had also spoken of myself, of my position and independence, as far as was fitting, and the elder sister already began to tease my Emily—MINE! Astounding.

She loved Goethe as exclusively as my

self. Exclusively! How can it be otherwise when he is understood? What are others in comparison with him?

I can scarcely comprehend how we could have talked so much, so circumstantially, with each other in so short a time. Chiefly of poetry,—the angelic creature speaks naught but poetry. She is poetry itself, for she is thoroughly natural.

In short, we understood each other. I felt it inwardly. They are in good circumstances, but not rich; this I learnt casually. The uncle is indulging them with this journey; they will not hurry homewards, but intend wandering about for some time. I hinted that I should like to accompany them; they laughed; but neither refused nor accepted my offer. On the following day we were to talk of that and several other things.

I lent her Goethe's poems, which she took with her to her apartment; uncle, it was the beautiful copy in which you have written my name. You presented me with the whole edition on my birth-day, as you well remember.

I slept but little; Emily always stood before me; and her full, clear voice rang enchantingly in my ear.

At length, exhausted, I slept, and was startled on awaking to find it broad daylight. Everything was still, the household was not yet in motion.

I waited impatiently, expecting the door to open every moment. At length the sleepy waiter brought me a note, written by her—they had departed quite early. The man knew not whither, whether towards Dresden, Freiberg, or Berlin:—

"Unhappily unexpected news compels us to break our promise. We depart before sunrise. Should you still carry out your plan, forget not your friends on the Lake of Constance. We shall be there in autumn."

I kissed the note and could have wept. They had told me their name, with the name of their property in Switzerland; but I had forgotten both, indeed, had scarcely heeded them, believing that I should see and converse with them the whole day.

Thus have I lost the greatest happiness I ever experienced. The full moon was to blame for it, I should have been more rational, more prosaical. But had I been so, neither Emily, nor this moment of my life, had been of such importance to me.

The scene where all this took place was at Tharaud, near Dresden. I remained, I wandered in her footsteps. I saw her room. She had taken the volume of Goethe with her. Was it intentional, or absence of mind?

(To be continued next week.)

A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCAFFOLD.

AMBITION has, at various periods, taken many strange shapes, but we can recall none more extraordinary than that which appears to have been exhibited by a Mr John Painter, said to be of St John's College, Oxford, in 1747, when Lord Lovat was under sentence of death. Three very remarkable letters were published by him, price one guinea! and said to be in favour of Lord Lovat. One of them was addressed to the King, another to the Earl of Chesterfield, and a third to the Hon. Henry Pelham, Esq. These purported to be written with a view of inducing the government to allow the condemned peer to die by proxy, and Mr Painter offered to suffer for him. The letter to his Majesty concluded in the following words, from which it will be seen that it was not admiration of the doomed rebel that induced the writer to offer himself as a substitute:—

"In a word, bid Lovat live: punish the vile traitor with life, but let me die; let me bow down my head to the block, and receive without fear that friendly blow, which, I verily believe, will only separate the soul from its body and miseries together."

In his letter to Lord Chesterfield he said—

"The honour I have to ask of his Majesty and your lordship, being a contradiction to no man's peferment, may be enjoyed, I believe, without a rival, and is no more than this: to wit, that Lovat and his family may be freely pardoned the high crime of rebellion, of which his lordship stands at length convicted, and for which the traitor is most justly sentenced to die; and that my head may be struck off, as a full satisfaction for his lordship's guilt. This, I will be bold to say, I will not disgrace your patronage by a want of intrepidity in the hour of death, and that all the devils in Milton, with all the ghastly ghosts of Scotsmen that fell at Culloden, if they could be conjured there, should never move me to say, coming upon the scaffold, 'Sir, this is terrible.'"

To Mr Pelham he wrote as follows:—

"Sir,—Believing you to be one of the most generous of men alive, and ever ready to do acts of the tenderest greatness, as you are truly great: I am, therefore, encouraged to apply to you to do me a small service, because the post I want is not of the same nature with other court preferments, for which there is generally a multitude of competitors, but may be enjoyed without a rival. Will you then refuse to make me truly happy? Is it such a mighty favour to give me what you cannot give to any other man? For no other man in the nation will, I believe, accept it from your hands. Do then be persuaded; let me persuade you, sir, to intercede with the King in my behalf, that Lovat may be pardoned, and that I may have the honour of being beheaded on the scaffold in his lord-

ship's stead : my pretensions to ask this favour you may see in my letter to the King.

I am, with my hat under my arm, and a very low bow, Sir,

"Your most devoted, most obedient,

"And most humble servant,

"JOHN PAINTER."

The above letters being shown to Lord Lovat in the Tower, two days before his execution, his lordship expressed his surprise, and said—"This is an extraordinary man indeed! I should be glad to know what countryman he is, and whether the thing is fact. Perhaps it may be only a finesse in politics, to cast an odium on some particular place or person. But if there be such a person, he is a miracle in the present age, and will be in the future, for he even exceeds that text of scripture which says, 'Greater love than this hath no man, than that a man lay down his life for his friend.' However, this man offers to suffer for a stranger, nay, for one that he stigmatises with the name of a vile traitor. In short, Sir, I'm afraid the poor gentleman is weary of living in this wicked world, and, if that be the case, the obligation is altered, because a part of the benefit is intended for himself."

Shrewd as Lord Lovat was, he might have imagined another motive. Mr Painter, unless he was a fool, must have known that his head was in no danger of being taken off, but the proposal he made he perhaps thought would cause some of his letters to be *taken off*, which would perhaps have answered his purpose as well, as he charged a good price for them. A guinea for three letters, though cheap literature was not then in fashion, would have paid well if they had a tolerable sale.

ANIMAL STRUCTURE AS REGARDS LIFE AND DEATH.

THAT "passing wonderful" theme, which naturally occupies much of the thoughts of every reflecting being, — the question of what is life, and what are the essential conditions on which its continuance must depend, has been most ably treated by Mr Turner, of Manchester. He has explained, with great clearness, the formation of "this godly frame." He showed that the supposition that everything in connexion with a living animal must be endowed with vitality, is a fallacy. There were in connexion with living creatures, structures not endowed with life.

Various parts of the body are formed of what are called tissues, or textures, endowed with properties, some of them physical, some vital, and essential, in their respective position, to the well-being of the animal economy. It might be thought that everything in connexion with a living animal was endowed with vitality; and, how-

ever reasonable this supposition might *a priori* appear, it was not the truth—there were, in connexion with living creatures, structures not endowed with life. The source of all the fluids and solids of the body was one — namely, the blood; every living thing, whether vegetable or animal, must have entering into its composition a certain amount of fluid and solid matter. The proportions varied, the lowest link almost in the scale of animalization was the medusa or jelly fish; into the composition of this animal, fluids and solids entered; but how great their disproportion! A medusa, weighing 20 lb. if the fluid were allowed to escape from it, would be reduced to a solid mass, weighing a few grains. Some fluids in the body were dead; and some were endowed with vitality, but this in a very low degree, save and except the blood. The vitality in the solids varied most materially; and this variation determined the character of the function which the part was destined to perform in connexion with animal life. There were unorganized or dead textures in connexion with animals. Horn, the nails that grow on the fingers and toes are dead; they are mere excrescences, but they are the products of living textures. With respect to the antler of the deer, it was endowed with a very vigorous vitality for a time; no texture grew so rapidly as the antler of the deer; but its life was limited to a very short duration. It commenced its growth, acquired the acme, declined, died, and fell from the animal within a period of twelve months. The feathers of birds were similar in their nature; they were deciduous; they were cast off annually. There were textures that were endowed with life, and continued to live: the first was the cellular: this was analogous to the tissues in plants called cellular, the modifications of which gave rise to the variety of textures which were met with in plants. The next was the muscular tissue, commonly known by the name of flesh; and the third was the nervous.

There were certain organs of the human body which were composed entirely of the modifications of cellular tissue; but in animals, in order to endow tissues with vitality, and to enable them to perform their functions, they must have a supply of nerves; whence, then, the distinction between those textures as occurring in plants, and those occurring in animals. And what did this do in reference to functions? Every texture in an animal body was endowed with common irritability; a principle inseparable from life, but in animals it was always associated with a degree of sensibility: in plants, however, this kind of irritability was unassociated with sensibility; for plants had no nerves. Cellular tissue was met with

in all the organs of the body; as a universally pervading texture; there was no part without more or less of it. If a wound were made in the skin, by means of a blow-pipe the entire body, or the cellular tissue, might be inflated, by means of that artificial aperture. Bone is cellular tissue, in combination with earthy matter, and cartilage is a modification of the same tissue; all the membranous textures were compressed cellular tissue; and all the secreting and non-secreting organs of the body were composed of an analogous structure. But, in reference to muscular fibre, it was found associated with certain organs only, which were endowed, by its presence, with a new property, namely, special irritability; a property of muscular fibre only, and characterised by the possession of certain laws. To prove the presence of muscular fibre in an organ, all we have to do is to take an instrument and prick it, when it will be seen to contract under our observation. There was contraction, a power of active contractility, which no other texture of the body enjoyed. But in this experiment we apply an unnatural stimulus, with a view to the production of an effect, in order to satisfy curiosity, but nature gave, in all instances, a natural stimulus. Every organ of the body, therefore, that was endowed with special irritability was also provided with stimulus, in order to keep up its natural action, and to enable it to perform the function which nature had assigned to it. For example, the stomach was endowed with special irritability. What was the stimulus to its action? Food. The vessels that took up the nutriment from the bowels, and conveyed it to the blood, were endowed with special irritability, and stimulated by the chyle, which was the nutritive part of the food. Then, the bowels were stimulated to action by the bile. The natural stimulus to the organs, in connexion with respiration, was atmospheric air. The stimulus to the action of the heart and vessels was the blood. They perceived here, then, that there was a stimulus applied to each irritable texture; but the amount of irritability was not always proportionate to the amount of sensibility of an organ, nor was an organ sensible in proportion to its amount of irritability, as each depended on a separate principle. Take the heart. This organ was considered the most irritable part of the living body,—the most active in its power of contraction;—an organ gifted with a property which was continued incessantly from the visible commencement of life to the termination of it, alternately contracting and dilating, receiving and transmitting the vital fluid. It was said to be the first part of the body to live, and it was supposed to

be the last to die, which is untrue; for the capillary vessels, or the vessels which were circulating the most delicate or subtle part of the blood to the minutest extremities of the system, continued their action subsequently to the death of the heart. The heart was not so sensible an organ as supposed to be, endowed as it was with excessive irritability. The celebrated Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, had an opportunity of putting this question to the test. A young nobleman, of the name of Montgomery, met with an accident by which there were torn and subsequently came away, considerable portions of the ribs and parts covering the left side of the chest. The individual miraculously recovered, but with a permanent opening in the thorax, exposing the left lung and the heart. On the case being made known to Charles the First, he requested that Harvey might have an opportunity of examining this extraordinary case. Harvey called upon the young nobleman, and stated what his Majesty's pleasure was; and the young nobleman, immediately consenting, took off his clothes, and exposed a large opening into which Harvey could introduce his hand. After expressing his surprise at the effort which nature had made at reparation, and that life could be sustained with all this exposure of the contents of the chest, Harvey took the heart in his hand, and put his finger on the pulse to ascertain whether it was really true that he had that most important organ within his grasp and sphere of observation; and, finding the pulsations of the heart and the wrist were synchronous, he was convinced that it was the heart. Harvey was so delighted at this opportunity of witnessing so interesting a fact, that he took the young nobleman to his Majesty, in order that he, too, might be satisfied that it was the heart. Wonderful as it may appear, in touching it there was no sensibility, there was no pain; the heart might have been squeezed in the hand; and, but from the circumstance of touching the young nobleman's clothes or his skin, he was not conscious that there was any pressure upon it. This proved that the heart was not so highly sensitive. This case would not induce the supposition that this organ could be roughly treated, for it is an organ full of sympathy. So far as its exterior is concerned, it was not endowed with a high degree of sensibility, and that for the wisest purposes; but its interior enjoyed it in a most exquisite degree. The internal surface of the heart immediately sympathised with any disturbed condition of the system. If the head or stomach were affected, the heart could very easily be brought into intimate sympathy with it; therefore it was a highly sympathetic organ. In re-

ference to the laws relating to special irritability, there were others which must be understood. For example : each organ was supplied with a stimulus, which was necessary for the maintenance of its health and of its functions. It must be likewise understood, that each organ that was irritable also possessed a certain amount of irritability. Thus, one muscle or muscular organ has a greater share of irritability than another. The blood vessels of a larger size were endowed with very little irritability, comparatively speaking ; but those that were capillary, or a hair's breadth in size, were endowed with most exquisite irritability. Another law is this, that every contraction is at the expense of a portion of the irritable principle. Whence, every contraction must be followed by repose. The heart went on contracting, dilating, contracting, dilating ; but all the parts of the heart were not in a state of contraction and dilation at the same time. The two parts called the auricles dilated and contracted simultaneously ; and the two larger cavities called the ventricles dilated and contracted at the same time ; so that, when the blood entered, the heart contracted, and drove it onwards ; and thus, therefore, there was a succession of dilations and contractions, with a view to carry the blood from the heart towards the extremities. This fact may be illustrated in connexion with voluntary muscles, thus—How long could a person keep his arm extended ? Not a very long time ; circumstance would determine the time ; it was so long as his muscles of extension retained their irritability ; but, as soon as ever the muscles lost their stock of irritability, the effort became exceedingly painful, and at length abortive. Here there was an expenditure of irritability, which, in certain cases, would bring about the dissolution of the body. But suppose the opposite extreme. Suppose they did not exercise the muscles at all, or allowed them to remain in repose for too long a period. For instance, in reference to the stomach ; to allow too great a distance of time between meals. What was the result ? An accumulation of irritability in this organ, and a state of matters which, by the application of a certain stimulus, might cause a rapid expenditure of the irritable principle, bring about disease, and perhaps death. How death ? Persons had been shut up in coal mines, and individuals who had been taken out of the canals, or had been frozen to death or nearly so ; animation in these cases becoming suspended. Take the individual, then, who had been shut up in a coal mine for three, four, or five days ; bring him into a room, rouse him with stimulants, feed him with roast beef and plum pudding, allow him to eat till he was satisfied,

and what would be the result ? Death. If, on the contrary, they gave him, on being released from his incarceration, a little meal or sago gruel of moderate temperature, and then went on gradually supplying him with more generous nutriment, they would save his life. And why was this ? Because there had been an inordinate accumulation of irritability in the stomach, which was exhausted in *toto* by the vigorous effort of digestion, and the result was death.

In the same way precisely the law would apply to a person who was frost-bitten. If they were to expose his toes to the fire, the result would be mortification. If, on the contrary, they were to rub them with snow, mortification would probably not take place, and the individual would be restored.

ANECDOTES OF THE LATE MR MURRAY.

MANY gratifying instances of the liberality of the late Mr Murray have transpired since his decease. Often, after having made an agreement, he went beyond it. Thus we learn that to Campbell he gave 1,000*l.* for his 'Specimens of the Poets,' the price he had engaged to pay being no more than 500*l.*

To Allan Cunningham he acted most generously on the occasion of his writing the 'Lives of the British Artists.' He paid 50*l.* per volume over the sum engaged for, and gave this handsome resolve a retrospective operation.

The following letter will be read with pleasure. It proves that he behaved very nobly by Sir Walter Scott.

"To Sir Walter Scott.

" Albemarle street, June 8, 1829.

" My dear Sir,—Mr Lockhart has this moment communicated your letter respecting my fourth share of the copyright of 'Marmion.' I have already been applied to, by Messrs Constable and by Messrs Longman, to know what sum I would sell this share for; but so highly do I estimate the honour of being, even in so small a degree, the publisher of the author of the poem, that no pecuniary consideration whatever can induce me to part with it.

" But there is a consideration of another kind, which until now I was not aware of, which would make it painful for me if I were to retain it a moment longer. I mean the knowledge of its being required by the author, into whose hands it was spontaneously resigned in the same instant that I read his request.

" This share has been profitable to me fifty-fold beyond what either publisher or author could have anticipated; and, therefore, my returning it on such an occasion you will, I trust, do me the favour to con-

sider in no other light than as a mere act of grateful acknowledgment for benefits already received by, my dear sir, your obliged and faithful servant,

"JOHN MURRAY."

Mr Murray, by judicious liberality, secured many a valuable copyright, which more sordid, misjudging publishers allowed to go by. He made one memorable mistake in declining the 'Rejected Addresses' of the Smiths. "I could have had the 'Rejected Addresses' for 10*l.*" said he, "but I let them go by as the kite of the moment. See the result! I was determined to pay for my neglect, and I bought the *remainder* of the copyright for 150 guineas."

It ought to be known that Mr Murray originally suggested the 'Quarterly Review': he nobly sustained it.

He brought out a new morning paper, called the 'Representative.' It was boldly conceived, and intended to be carried on with princely magnificence. It failed to gain public support in time to save it from sinking. Mr Murray sustained a heavy loss by this speculation.

'Mrs Markham's History of England,' published by him, was originally brought out by Constable, and failed. Mr Murray perceived it had great merit, and gave it the title just quoted: it is now a standard and highly profitable work.

Mr Murray was intimate with many distinguished literary characters. His correspondence with Lord Byron (*some of it that we have seen*) was very curious. He had the honour of being playfully commemorated by the noble Lord in the following stanzas:—

"Along thy sprucest book-shelves shine
The works thou deemeſt most divine,
The 'Art of Cookery' and mine,
My Murray."

Tours, Travels, Essays too, I wist,
And Sermons to thy mill bring grist,
And then thou hast the 'Navy List,'
My Murray."

Often noticed with favour by the votaries of the Muses, he did not always escape ill will. In an imitation of Horace now before us, written by a learned gentleman formerly a member of a Tory government, we find the following compliments lavished on him:—

"Byron's deep and touching pow'
Still shakes our nerves and sells the 'Giaour,'
And so puffs up the windy brain
Of M—r—y, vainest of the vain;
Murray, Scotland's only dunc,
Whom in a frantic humour once,
Fortune (his friend by sympathy,
For Fortune squints as well as he,) Exalted from his native dirt
To publish for the great, and wear a shirt,"

Reptile whom evil fates have placed
In the fair paradise of taste,
To blight the tree of knowledge in its bloom,
Bruise young Ambition's heel and sting her to the tomb!"

In being thus assailed Mr Murray only

experienced the common fate of a publisher. As much is said against many who have little or nothing *per contra* to show. The 'Atheneum' says—"For seventy-eight years two John Murrays have been connected, in an eminent degree, with all that is useful and elegant in literature; we have now a *third* John Murray, to whom we wish all the success he so well merits."

COMFORT FOR INVALIDS.

Some curious facts have been established, by inquiries made in connexion with the conditions on which life assurances can be safely affected, by Mr Neilson, the actuary of the Medical Invalid and General Assurance Society. He shows that though life is generally of greater value, or more likely to be prolonged in the country than in cities, that in the diseased life, the varieties of town and country are of little importance. The wounded life will endure in town as long as in the country, but life which is established in the country is less exposed to a fatal wound. He says:—

"As an example of this—the expectation at the age of 30 in the country districts is 36·7 years; in cities (viz. Glasgow), 27·6 years—difference 33 per cent. nearly; but take the case of persons of that age in whom the consumptive tendency is developed, and who will ultimately die of consumption, and their expectation of life in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, will be found to be 14·5, in cities (Glasgow), 14·4, and in the metropolis, Manchester, Birmingham, 13·9; difference .017 per cent. (or 1·57 per cent.) It therefore appears that while the difference between country and town life in the former case is about 33 per cent., that in the latter instance (consumption) the difference is almost nothing, and the results nearly uniform. The same thing holds good with some other diseases which have been investigated in this manner.

"It hence appears that the fluctuation in the mortality of diseased lives is much less than among select lives and the population generally, and therefore the risk of assuring diseased lives must also be less."

This is a discovery most interesting to humanity. It opens a door by which persons in declining health, compelled by circumstances to reside in crowded cities, who were formerly denied all participation in the important advantages offered by life assurances, may be admitted to make, by a small sacrifice, some provision for those who must otherwise be left destitute. The comfort hence afforded to the sinking heart, so intimate is the connexion between mind and body, will in many cases arrest the course of disease, and give the patient a longer career than if left to the unmitigated gloom which formerly hung over him.



Arms. Quarterly; first and fourth, or, on a chief sable, three escallops of the field—Graham; second and third, argent, three roses gu.—Montrose.

Crest. An eagle preying on a stork, all proper.

Supporters. Two storks, close, proper.

Motto. "Ne oubliez." "Forget not."

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF MONTROSE.
The family of Montrose is traced back to the restoration of the monarchy by Fergus II. It derives its origin from the renowned Graeme, who governed Scotland during the minority of Eugene II, Fergus's grandson, whose reign commenced at so remote a period as the early part of the fifth century. No family in Scotland boasts higher antiquity.

Sir David Graham, Knight, Lord of Montrose, held lands in the county of Forfar, obtained in exchange for the estate of Cardross, from Robert I. This Sir David, a patriot distinguished for his valour, was one of the Scottish barons who negotiated for the release of David II, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Durham in 1346. His son,

Sir Patrick Graham, Lord of Dundoff and Kincardine, Knight Banneret, was one of the hostages given on the occasion of the king being liberated. He was succeeded by his son,

Sir William Graham, of Kincardine, one of the Lords of the Regency during the minority of James II. He became a Lord of Parliament, under the title of Lord Graham, in or about 1445.

William, the second Lord Graham, succeeded him in 1465.

William, the third Lord Graham, the eldest son of the former, became the wearer of the title in 1472. He was raised to the dignity of Earl of Montrose, March 3, 1504-5, in consideration of the gallantry he had displayed at the battle of Sauchyburn, wherein James III lost his life. His Lordship fell, with James IV, on Flodden field, February 7, 1513.

William, his only son, succeeded the last Earl, who, on his decease, May 24, 1571, was succeeded by his grandson John, the third Earl, posthumous son of Robert, Lord Graham, who was slain at the battle of Pinkie, Sept. 10, 1547. He was appointed Chancellor in 1598, and held the seals till 1604, when it was required that the Chancellor should be a lawyer. He died in 1608, and was succeeded by his eldest son

John, fourth Earl. He was appointed President to the Court in Scotland in 1626. In the same year he was succeeded by his only son,

James, fifth Earl of Montrose. He having been on the side of the parliament, warmly espoused the cause of Charles I, and distinguished himself by many gallant actions; but being at length vanquished, when he saw the day was absolutely lost, he threw away his cloak with the star upon it, and meeting with a countryman changed clothes with him, and thus assumed a Highland habit. He wandered about three or four days without being discovered. The Laird of Assint with some of his tenants at length found him in a place where he had been almost ever since the battle, without food or drink. He had only one man with him. The laird had formerly been under his command, and he had hopes of prevailing on him to allow of his escape. In this he was disappointed. Assint, eager to gain the reward offered for his apprehension, lost no time in securing him. Montrose then begged that he might be instantly put to death, but this favour, like the former, was refused him. Taken to Edinburgh, he was soon tried, and doomed to die. On the 18th of May, 1650, being met at the gates of Edinburgh by the magistrates, who had formerly presented to him on their knees the keys of the city, he was treated with every indignity. The hangman wore his bonnet; Montrose was compelled to sit behind him in a car, bareheaded. He read the sentence which they exhibited to him with great composure. When taken from the cart he gave the hangman money, declaring that he regarded the vehicle in which he had rode as "his triumphal chariot." So calm, so unruffled, was the mind of this brave soldier, that on the night before his execution he composed those lines on his own situation, which a short time since were inserted in the 'Mirror,' in an article entitled 'Lays of the Dying.'

Cruelty was on the alert to wound the

unfortunate nobleman. Some of "the bigots of that iron time" declared "he was a fagot in hell, and that they could actually see that he was burning." At length an end was put to his sufferings, on the 21st of May, 1650. About two in the afternoon he was brought from the prison to the place of execution, dressed in a Scotch cloak trimmed with gold lace. Having reached the scaffold, the ministers of religion, because he was excommunicated, refused to pray for him, and reproached him for his crimes. He prayed for a quarter of an hour with his hat before his eyes; his book, declaration, and other papers, were then tied round his neck. He asked to be permitted to wear his hat and cloak, but this poor boon was harshly denied. He then, having implored mercy for his enemies, serenely passed to the top of the gibbet, which was of extraordinary height. He inquired how long he was to be suspended, and was told by the executioner three hours. He desired that he might be thrown off when he should lift up his hands. This wish was attended to, and the hangman, shedding tears while he did it, on the signal being given, thrust him from the ladder. When cut down, "without so much as any to receive his fallen corpse, his head was smitten off, his arms by the shoulders, and his legs by the knees, and put into several boxes." His head was fixed on the Tolbooth, his limbs were exhibited at Stirling, Dundee, Glasgow, and Aberdeen; but after the restoration they had all the honours of a gorgeous funeral.

His son and grandson, bearing the same name as himself, succeeded him in due course. The son of the last, also named James, fourth Marquis of Montrose, was appointed by Queen Anne, Admiral of North Britain, and advanced to the dignity of Duke, April 24, 1707. His third son, William, was the second Duke, who was succeeded by James, the present Duke, September 23, 1790.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CARTOONS.

The Cartoons submitted for the decoration of the new Houses of Parliament are now open to public inspection at Westminster Hall. A shilling is charged for admission. This has, by many, seemed objectionable. It is, however, understood that the object in view is to restrain the too ardent curiosity of the public, and is only to be demanded during the first fortnight of the exhibition. The money received is to be applied to the promotion of the Fine Arts, in some way to be hereafter determined on; and in and after the third week the public view will be gratis, with the exception of a few hours on the Saturday in each week, reserved at the price of a shilling, for

those who may desire more room and freedom for their examination.

The following is understood to be the names of the successful competitors for the prizes, the subjects on which they have employed their talent, and the prizes awarded to them:—

Prizes of 300l.

Armitage.	Landing of Julius Caesar.
Watta.	Caractacus at Rome.
Cope.	The First Trial by Jury.

Prizes of 200l.

Horsley.	St Augustine preaching before Ethelbert and Bertha, his Christian Queen.
Bell.	Queen Margaret taking sanctuary at Westminster.

Townsend. The Fight for the Beacon.

Prizes of 100l.

Parris.	Joseph of Arimathea.
Severn.	King Edward and Queen Eleanor.
Briggs.	Alfred presenting his Code of Laws to the Witan.
Frost.	Una surprised by the Fauns and Satyrs.
Selous.	Boadicea.

THE LATE ALEXANDER BETHUNE.

This able writer and high-minded man died in Fifeshire, on the 14th ult. A peasant originally, a peasant he continued, after he had displayed talents which would have made a sordid, ambitious man look forward to fame and fortune through exertions very different from those to which he was content to owe his daily bread. His independent spirit was finely manifested when, on the publication of the life of his brother John, a subscription was made for him. The money was, with great delicacy, anonymously sent to him through his publisher. It was, however, without loss of time, not merely declined, *pro forma*, that he might be moved to accept it, but returned to the senders. His circumstances then were very humble, but this was the language he held:—

"As I am not in want, and as all those for whom I had all along been more anxious than for myself are now gone, I do think I should be doing wrong in appropriating to myself those funds which may be made to do the work of benevolence elsewhere. It is not pride which makes me decline accepting the gift so generously and delicately tendered; but, upon principle, I consider it a duty in every man, so far as Providence may enable him, to provide for his own wants; and I have always felt a sort of pleasure in the consciousness of being able to keep my wants within my means of supplying them, however limited these might be. I do not trust to litera-

THE MIRROR.

ture, moreover, but to the labours of my hands for my support; and therefore I cannot be subjected to those vicissitudes which literary men so often experience. With an ordinary share of health, the task of supplying myself with the necessaries of life will be a light one: and, if spared for a few years, I may even provide a small fund for sickness or accidents. For these reasons I would still beg you to forward the letter. * * I must say, also, that though I had not the slightest hankering after the money, yet, from an idea of the disappointment which it might occasion, it was only by a painful effort that I could bring myself to write the letter in which I declined accepting it. * * I would humbly beg to suggest that the money may be bestowed upon literary men who have no other means of earning their bread, and who, in the absence of literary rewards, might be reduced to a state bordering on starvation."

Now was this a momentary effusion of pride that caused him so to act. He remained firm to his resolution till he reached "life's goal." The money above-mentioned was placed in a bank to his credit, in the expectation that he might change his determination; but he could not be prevailed upon to touch it, even in his last sickness. He had saved enough to pay for his funeral, and would not have that spent on him which other labourers in the service of literature might want.

SPECULATIONS ON THE NATIONAL DEBT.

It is amusing to see with what awful alarm politicians contemplated the increase of the national debt to about one eighth of its present amount! The following sage reflections on the subject are from the 'Craftsman,' Feb. 14, 1747:—

"A minister of state, eminent for his reign of almost twenty-four hours, has said, that 'England could bear a national debt, and pay the interest, of an hundred millions, but if there should be a necessity to go beyond that sum, a sponge must wipe out all.' If there should be any such men in the ministry as would not scruple to increase the public debt annually, in pursuit of such measures only as can keep them in power, and only for the sake of improving their own fortunes, who would not rejoice to see them dragged to Dover Cliffs, and from thence plunged, as from the Tarpeian rock, as a sacrifice to the British seas, the empire of which they had long disgraced and injured?

"Consider, countrymen, that seventy millions make a near approach to an hundred; and we have seen no endeavours used to diminish the principal; and one million is this year taken from the sinking fund—a fund appropriated to the payment

of the principal of the national debt: and when men are at the head of affairs who are unable to judge what to tax, and how to proportion taxes when layed, instead of a surplus they will find only deficiencies. We see a great one in the duties on spirits and on glass, which are put together, though on examination, I doubt not but the great deficiency would be found to be from glass."

Reviewing.

History and Antiquities of Highgate, with Illustrations. By Frederick Prickett. Published by the Author.

This advice of an eminent nobleman to his son, was always to buy the local history of any place in which he might find himself. We consider the advice good; but at the same time we must remark, that many books of that description have been got up with so little effort, and with such an obvious anxiety to conciliate "our highly respectable townsman, Mr So-and-So," and "the beautiful and accomplished Misses Something else," that they are of little intrinsic value. Here, however, we have a volume cleverly put together, embodying much careful research. It is one that well deserves a place in every library in the neighbourhood; and many of the facts brought together have interest for the general reader. The fame which Highgate has for salubrity is not of very modern date. It shows in the opening that Highgate seems to have enjoyed a perfect exemption from the great plague of 1665. It only lost sixteen of its inhabitants, although an immense number of contagious corpses were brought from the metropolis and buried there. "The depository is a hollow near Muswell-hill road, adjoining the wood, which, with the spot itself, still retains the name of 'Churchyard Bottom,' and where, at a few feet from the surface, have been found vast quantities of human bones, intermixed with darkened strata of earth." Highgate used to be the spot selected for royal sports, for, by a proclamation of Henry VIII, it seems that it was necessary more strictly to preserve the game.

"A proclamation y^t noe p'son interrupt the king's game of partridge or pheasant.

"Rex majori et vicecomitibus London. Vobis mandamus, &c.

"Forasmuch as the king's most royal ma^te is much desirous to have the games of hare, partridge, pheasant, and heron, p'served in and about his honor, att his palace of Westm^t for his owne disport and pastime; that is to saye, from his said palace of Westm^t to St Gyles in the Fields, and from thence to Islington, to or Lady of the Oke, to Highgate, to Hornsey Parke, to Hamstead Heath, and from thence to his said palace of Westm^t, to be preserved and kept for his owne disport,

pleasure, and recreas' on; his highnes therefore straigntlie chargeth and commaundeth all and singular his subiects, of what estate, degree, or condic'on soev' they be, that they, ne any of them, doe p'sume or attempt to hunt or to hawke, or in any meanes to take or kill any of the said game within the prencites aforesaid, as they tender his favor, and will estheue the ymprisomment of their bodies, and further punishment at his ma't will and pleasure."

"Et hoc sub p'ecula incumbenti nullatenus omittat.

"Teste meipso apud Westm' vij^o die Julij, anno tricesimo septimo Henrici Octavi, 1546."

We find that Cæsar's camp extended from Baginigge Wells to the south side of the hill between Hampstead and Highgate.

Highgate and its neighbourhood were frequently resorted to by political malcontents. Sometimes, however, it was selected by the loyal as a fit place to meet and honour their king.

The following extracts, which are offered from the several authorities given, are rather curious:—

"In 1386, in the tempestuous reign of Richard II, the Duke of Gloucester, the Earls of Arundel, Warwick, Derby, and Nottingham, and several other nobles, repaired to arms, for the avowed purpose of opposing Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, whom the king in an excess of partiality had created the Duke of Ireland. The place in which they assembled was Harringay Park, and their party was sufficiently strong to alarm the king, who requested a meeting at Westminster."*

Highgate was a favourite spot for the meeting of popular feuds, for we find that, among others,—

"On the 13th of November, 1387, the Duke of Gloucester and his adherents secretly assembled their forces, and appeared in arms, at Harringay Park, near Highgate, with 40,000 men, a power which Richard and his ministers were not able to resist."†

"And on St Matthew's day, 1397, Edward, Earl of Rutland, the Earls of Kent, Huntingdon, Nottingham, Somerset, and Salisbury, with the Lords Spencer and Scrope, in a suite of red gownes of silke, garded and bordered with white silke, embroidered with letters of golde, propounded the appeal by them to the King, at Nottingham, in the which they accused Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, Richard, Earl of Arundell, Thomas, Earl of Warwick, and Thomas de Mortimer, knight of the premised treasons, and of an armed insurrection at Harringay Park, traitorously attempted against the King."‡

"The Lord Mayor of London and five hundred citizens met Henry V in Hornsey Park."§

"In 1487, Henry VII, on his return to

London, after the defeat of Lambert Simnel and his adherents, was met at Hornsey Parke by the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and principal commoners of the City of London, all on horseback and in one hivry, to attend upon him when he dubbed Sir William Horne, Maior of London, knight; and betwixt Iseldon and London he dubbed Sir John Percivall, Alderman, knight."**

We again read a strange account, which, at the present enlightened times, would be ridiculed:—

"In the year 1441, Roger Bolingbroke, an astrologer, and Thomas Southwell, a canon of St Steven's, were taken up for a conspiracy against Henry VI, when it was alleged that Bolingbroke endeavoured to consume the king's person by necromantic art, and that Thomas Southwell said masses in the Lodge at Hornsey Parke over the instruments which were to be used for that purpose."

"Anno Dni 1562, Sir Roger Cholmeley, knight, lord chief baron of y, Exchequer, and after that lord chife justice of the King's Bench, did institvte and erect, at his owne charges, thin pbliche and free gramer schoole, and procured the same to be established and confirmed by the letters patent of Queene Elizabeth, hee endowing the same with yearelye mayntaynance,† which schoole Edwyn Sandys, lord bishop of London, enlarged, an dñ 1565, by the addition of this chappel for divine service, and by other endowments of pietie and devotion, since which the said chappel hath been enlarged by the pietie and bovnty of divershonble and worthy personages."

We shall take from this interesting book a few of its most important points, in another paper. We wish the author would publish an account of the old footpaths and pack-horse roads, which are in a shameful way being closed against the public. The subject would be found one of great interest. To trace the course of those roads by which the ancient Britons communicated, and transferred commodities such as they had then for sale or exchange, when the van, the omnibus, the coach, the cah, and even the cart were unknown, would throw additional light on 'Life in England in the Olden Time.' Besides affording amusement of a higher order, it would be likely to prove of great utility. It might preserve to us one or two of the ancient shady ways now in the course of being so ruthlessly invaded, and save the fainting pedestrian from being expelled from his beloved green lanes, to brave the arduous of the noonday sun in the dusty roads.

* Nelson's 'History of Islington.'

† Camden's 'History of England'

‡ Stowe:

§ Lyon's 'Environs.'

* Stowe's 'Annals.'

† "The Records of the Rolls Chapel describe two messanges in the parish of St Martin with Ludgate, and a messange in Crooked land, of the value of 10*s.* *f.* for this purpose."

HORRORS OF WAR.

THE mournful scenes on record connected with the strife of hostile hosts, have received some interesting additions from the recent strife in China. Captain Loch gives a description of the desolation poured on one unhappy family, which it is impossible to read without emotion, and without being disposed to exclaim with the poet—

" O God, who rulest the battle's rage,
Take from men's hearts that rage away."

Captain Loch, with others, after the fall of Chin-kiang-foo, entered a Chinese dwelling. He says—

" After we had forced our way over piles of furniture, placed to barricade the door, we entered an open court strewed with rich stuffs and covered with clotted blood; and upon the steps leading to the 'hall of ancestors' there were two bodies of youthful Tartars, cold and stiff, much alike, apparently brothers. Having gained the threshold of their abode, they had died where they had fallen, from the loss of blood. Stepping over these bodies, we entered the hall, and met, face to face, three women seated, a mother and two daughters; and at their feet lay two bodies of elderly men, with their throats cut from ear to ear, their senseless heads resting upon the feet of their relations. To the right were two young girls, beautiful and delicate, crouching over, and endeavouring to conceal, a living soldier.

" I stopped, horror-struck at what I saw. I must have betrayed my feelings by my countenance, as I stood spell-bound to the spot. The expression of cold, unutterable despair depicted on the mother's face changed to the violent workings of scorn and hate, which at last burst forth in a paroxysm of invective, afterwards in floods of tears, which apparently, if anything could, relieved her. She came close to me, and seized me by the arm, and with clenched teeth and deadly frown pointed to the bodies—to her daughters—to her yet splendid house, and to herself; then stepped back a pace, and with firmly-closed hands, and in a hoarse and husky voice, I could see by her gestures spoke of her misery—of her hate, and I doubt not of revenge. It was a scene that one could not bear long; consolation was useless; expostulation from me vain. I attempted by signs to explain, offered her my services, but was spurned. I endeavoured to make her comprehend that, however great her present misery, it might be in her unprotected state a hundred-fold increased; that if she would place herself under my guidance, I would pass her through the city gates in safety into the open country, where, doubtless, she would meet many of the fugitives; but the poor woman would not listen to me; the whole family were by this time in loud lamentation; so all that remained

for me to do was to prevent the soldiers bayoneting the man who, since our entrance, had attempted to escape."

Science.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—R. Creed, Esq., Secretary of the London and Birmingham Railway Company, informed the council, at a late meeting, that the directors had passed a resolution by which, during the society's ensuing meeting at Derby, no increase is guaranteed on the usual fares for passengers, while on the already reduced charges for the conveyance of cattle and agricultural implements, a further reduction would on that occasion be made of one-third. Mr Colville, M.P., stated that an office for the registration of furnished houses or apartments, similar to the one established at the Bristol meeting last year, had been opened at No. 14 Market place, Derby, where Mr Moody, the Registrar, would receive and duly attend to all the wishes of parties applying to him on that subject. The Hon. R. H. Clive, M.P., gave notice that, on the 28th instant, he should propose that prizes be given for long and short Down sheep; Mr Cherry, that an alteration be made in the prizes for horses, and in the mode of their designation; and Mr E. David, that prizes be given for dairy cattle. Mr Clive also proposed that a prize should, on some future occasion, be given for the best mode of keeping farming accounts and taking stock. Mr Cherry submitted the model of his new land roller in sections, having changeable points of traction; whereby comparatively uniform pressure may be given to uneven surfaces. Mr Cherry at the same time explained the advantages of a smith's forge, of simple construction and light weight, which he had also presented on a former occasion, and which, being easily transferable from place to place, became suitable for jobbing purposes on extensive farms. Mr Colman presented a sample of sugar made from the stalks of Indian corn, or maize (*Zea Mays*). This was a fair sugar, and in the state in which it was taken from the pans after the evaporation of the juice. Mr Colman considered that this sugar would be a most valuable product wherever the Indian corn could be grown, and stated that the plant, when sugar is to be made from it, is not allowed to ripen or even to form its seed, and that the stalk only is used. The leaves or blades and the top of the stalk, commonly called the spindle, may be saved for fodder, and the stalks, after they have been pressed, will furnish food for cattle. It had been ascertained that more than 1,000 lbs. of sugar can be obtained from a single acre, and he had no

doubt that double that amount would eventually be obtained. The sample then submitted to the notice of the council was derived from a first attempt at the production of the Indian corn sugar in America, but there was no reason why similar success should not attend the trials made in this country. Mr Colman also presented several specimens of flax, prepared by steam, with a view to its being spun on common cotton machinery; namely—Specimen No. 1, Green Flax, broken, and the fibres separated entirely by the action of machinery, and called the "Stem Flax;" No. 2, Green Flax, broken, the fibres separated, and the glutinous matter washed out entirely by the action of machinery and pure cold water. No. 3, Flax which had gone through the same processes as the two former specimens, with the addition of hot water, and a small quantity of alkali in the last water; also shortened and equalized for spinning. No. 4, Yarn spun from flax in specimen No. 3, on a cotton throstle, with the preparation and carding altered.

HAYMARKET STARS.

In theatricals the great performer of the day, the star, used to have his name printed in the play bills in very large letters. The recent Haymarket bill of Tuesday exhibited *thirteen stars!* An American witling, deeming this something "out of the common," has given the following rather stinging commentary on the subject:—

These thirteen *stars* the world must understand,
Attest the Drama's *midnight* is at hand;
Yankies, who sometimes deal in awkward
wipes,
To stars like these would add their *thirteen stripes*,
Because this *starry* host brings many a play,
As done by them, into the *milky way*.
If the great *Jupiter* with whom they *shine*,
Were bound to pay, that all of them may
dine,
'Tis probable, I guess, that he would soon
Receive a civil message from the *Moon*;
And in that case 'tis hardly too absurd
To fancy "Shoot the Moon" would be the
word.

THE PUSEY (PEW-SEE) QUESTION.

A sage Divine is anxious, you see,
That no man door should to a *pew-see*;
But thousands say, as heretofore,
"We go to church but to a *door*" (adore).

S. SMITH.

Composition. — The creditors of Messrs Ackermann have agreed to accept a composition of 15s. in the pound, to be paid in six months. It appears that the debts of the concern amount to 30,664l. 9s. 6d.

* There is something obscure in this line. Mr Moon was lately elected Sheriff of Middlesex. Can brother Jonathan at all refer to him?

THE HERMIT OF HATFIELD.

The following curious letter appeared in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' a century ago:—

"The people of Hatfield and places adjacent have a tradition, that on the middle of Hatfield waste there formerly lived an ancient hermit, who was called William of Lindholme; he was by the common people taken for a cunning man or conjuror; but in order to be better informed, I, accompanied with the Rev. Mr Samuel Wesley and others, went to view the place, and after passing the morass, found the hermitage or cell situate in the middle of 60 acres of firm, sandy ground, full of pebbles, on which was growing barley, oats, and peas. There was likewise a well four or five yards deep, full of clear spring water, which is very remarkable, because the water of the morass is of the colour of coffee. Here is great plenty of furred bushes, &c., and variety of game, such as hares, foxes, kites, eagles, curlews, ducks, and geese. There is no house or cottage near it, and but a few old oaks, sallows, and birch. The house is a little stud-bound one, and seems ready to fall. At the east end stood an altar made of hewn stone, and at the west is the hermit's grave, covered with a free stone that measures in length eight feet and a half, in breadth 3, and in thickness 8, which, with the consent of Richard Howlegate, the present inhabitant, and the help of levers, we raised up and removed, and digging under found a tooth, a skull, the thigh and shin bones of a human body, all of a very large size; we likewise found in the grave a peck of hemp-seed and a beaten piece of copper. It is difficult to imagine how such vast stones should be brought, when it is even difficult for man or horse to travel over the morass, which in some places is four miles across, on which grows an odorous herb called gale, and a plant named silk or cotton grass, from its white tuff on the top resembling the finest cotton wool. It is supposed, before draining the levels of Hatfield, that there was great plenty of water, by which the great stones must have been conveyed; this I think the most probable conjecture.

G. STOVIN.

"August 31, 1727."

CINTRA.

The bold and mountainous scenery of Cintra, situate seventeen miles from Lisbon, give it a claim to the attention of all travellers in that part of the Peninsula. It has, however, been distinguished for a convention which was not considered very favourable to British diplomacy, in which it was complained the fruits of victory had been thrown away for something very like the badges of defeat. It was one of the few occasions in which "the hero of a hundred fights," that chief,

tain who has run so extraordinary a race of glory, which, as yet, is happily not concluded, was thought by some to have tarnished his laurels by assenting to the terms on which he thought it right to allow the enemy withdraw from the soil on which, in the fullness of time, the British captain was to gain so vast a harvest of deathless renown.

Cintra lies near the mouth of the Tagus, and the houses are dispersed in picturesque varieties of situation over the mountain, whose stupendous form is identified with the town. It contains a castle, formerly the residence of royalty, which is of great antiquity, and is said to have been built by the Moors; and after having been destroyed in 1665 by an earthquake, to have been rebuilt in the former style, by King Joseph. There are four parish churches, and the number of inhabitants is estimated at 19,000. It is the summer residence of the opulent inhabitants of Lisbon, and especially of the foreign merchants and of persons of high rank in the government. It is deemed a paradise in the height of summer. When all around Lisbon is dried up and desolate by the scorching sun of Castile in the months of August and September, here water, shade, and verdure are found to relieve the eye and refresh the drooping senses. The nights are cool even in the midst of summer, and altogether the retreat here afforded is most charming and delightful.

From Torres Vedras to Cintra the road lies through a series of military posts and strong passes; and through the Mafras, a village well known from its celebrated palace and convent. The former is deemed little inferior to the Escorial. As the traveller approaches, the noble features of the mountain and the beauties of the place are gradually presented in succession, till at length the traveller descends a hill by the church of St Sebastian, where the whole prospect becomes magnificent. The bold outline of the mountain astonishes by its vast extent, and the breaks and cavities, and the numerous villas built along its declivity, encompassed by orange groves and picturesque woods of fresh trees, offer a landscape of almost unequalled grandeur. One of the principal villas which arrest attention is that of the Marquis Marialva, and there is another hardly inferior to it, the property of the Marquis Pombal. There is also a noble hotel, which commands a fine view over the town, and of the Atlantic ocean.

There are three convents, a palace, and about a thousand houses. The palace was erected in the time of Don Emanuel.

At the foot of the mountain we find the remains of a noble temple to Cynthia, which from some dedicatory inscriptions found among the ruins, and a similarity between the words Cynthia and Cintra, has given rise to the conjecture that the latter is a corruption of the former. There is, however, no satisfactory authority on this subject to favour the supposition. A road shaded by chestnut and cork trees leads along the side of the mountain to Cascaes. Further on the road a path to the left leads to a convent of Capuchins, called "The Cork Convent," which is partly hewn out of the rock, and

partly formed by projecting masses of the mountain. Its appearance, as may be supposed, is rude in the extreme, and the stranger can hardly suspect that he is approaching a human abode, till he beholds the steps of the convent. The interior, in a great measure, corresponds with the outside, as the furniture is made of such materials as were easiest to be obtained in the neighbourhood. Masses of stone and large pieces of cork furnish tables, chairs, and bedsteads. The chapel is ornamented with a variety of figures, crosses, and other devices, cut out of cork. Some of these are very ingenious. This convent was dedicated to St Francis, and supported by charitable contributions.

The Gatherer.

Railway in Russia.—Upwards of fifty thousand labourers are at present employed upon the St Petersburg and Moscow Railway. The whole distance will be nearly 500 English miles; and it is confidently hoped that the gigantic work will be completed in less than two years.

New Strawberry.—Mr Myatt, of Deptford, has this year produced another fine variety of this fruit, which he proposes to call the Deptford Pine. The foliage is something like that of the Downton. The fruit is magnificent, with the clear rich scarlet colour of the Downton and Elton when nearly ripe. Many of the berries are five and five and a half inches round, a little inclined to Cockscomb, and when not so, having the appearance of an enormous Elton. The flesh is firm and heavy. When quite ripe the flavour is very good; not so rich as the old Pine, but most agreeably acid. In warmer seasons it will probably be first-rate.

The Gresham Lectures.—A new building, in the enriched Roman style of architecture, with a theatre capable of accommodating 800 persons, has been completed at the corner of Basinghall street, at a cost of 7,000*l.*, for the Gresham Lectures.

Cultivation of Water Cresses.—By the side of a north wall, about the beginning of May, prepare a piece of ground, 8 feet by 3, with rather rich soil; then procure two pennyworth of cresses, make them into cuttings about two inches and a half long, caring little about their having roots, plant them about five inches apart, water them to set them fast, and repeat the watering once a day if the weather be dry. They very soon cover the ground. When they have grown a few inches in height the shoots want pegging down. They will root at the joints, and in a short time cover the bed, and a dish of cresses may be gathered every morning for six months, with as fine a leaf as if they were grown in the ordinary way.

Chinese Heroism.—An officer twice led his troops to the very point of the Bri-

tish bayonets, till he fell, shot through the loins :—Carried to the rear, an interpreter, seeing tears streaming down his cheeks, told him that mercy and every kindness would be shown. “Mercy,” he said, “I want no mercy. I came here to fight for my Emperor, and neither to give nor to accept mercy; but if you wish for my gratitude, and can be generous, write to my revered sovereign, and say I fell in the front fighting to the last.”—Another instance equally noble may be mentioned. A mandarin at the ramparts of Ching-kiang-foo led a small party of about thirty men against a company of General Schodde's advancing column; a volley dispersed his soldiers, but he marched up to the point of the bayonets; and, after firing his matchlock, succeeded in pulling over the ramparts with him two of the grenadiers.

Steam above Bridge.—There were landed on Sunday, the 25th of June, from the steamers—at Chelsea, 5,432 passengers; Putney, 3,701; Kew, 3,234; Richmond, 4,621; independent of those who landed at Hammersmith, Brentford, and Wandsworth.

An Ex-French Minister.—M. Thiers is about to visit England for the purpose of procuring information respecting the maritime wars of the empire.—[He had better go to Acre to get the details of that triumph which his folly gave to England.]

A Clergyman Fined.—The Rev. Henry Erakine Head, rector of Feniton, has been sentenced by the Arches Court, at the suit of the Bishop of Exeter, to three years' suspension from the office of the ministry, the loss of his living, and the costs of the action, for having published a letter, in which he maintained that the Church Catechism, the Order of Baptism, and the Order of Confirmation, in the Book of Common Prayer, contained erroneous doctrines. Mr Head, who is a brother of Sir Francis Head, is an evangelical clergyman, and the living is worth 500*l.* a year, so that the sentence is equivalent to the imposition of a fine of 1,500*l.* in addition to the costs of the action, which are supposed to amount to 1,500*l.*

Remains of Petrarch.—Petrarch's tomb at Arqua has just been restored by the care of Count Leoni. In the course of the works, the remains of the great poet were uncovered, and part of the body was found almost untouched by time. A fragment of cloth in which he was enveloped was taken away, and will be solemnly deposited in the parish church.

Tomb of the late Duke of Orleans.—M. Triquetti has nearly completed the funeral monument of the lamented Duke of Orleans. The kneeling angel at the pillow of the dying Prince is from a sketch by the Princess Mary, and is said to be wor-

thy of her Joan of Arc. In a few days the monument is to be removed to Sablonville, where workmen are finishing the pedestal that is to support it.

Information for Fruit Growers.—If all the fruit which a healthy tree will show is allowed to set, and a large part of its leaves is abstracted, such fruit, be the summer what it may, will never ripen. Therefore, if a necessity exists for taking off a part of the leaves of a tree, a part of its fruit should also be destroyed.

Ancient Price of Agricultural Labour.—In the year 1352, twenty-fifth of Edward III., wages paid to haymakers were but 1*d.* a day; a mower of meadows, 3*d.* a day, or 5*d.* an acre; reapers of corn, in the first week in August, 2*d.*; in the second, 4*d.* per day—and so on until the end of the month, —without meat, drink, or other allowance, finding their own tools. For threshing a quarter of wheat or rye, 2*½d.*; a quarter of beans, peas, barley, or oats, 1*½d.* By the thirteenth of Richard II., A.D. 1389, the wages of a bailiff of husbandry, 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, and his clothing once during that time, at most; a carter, 10*s.*; shepherd, 10*s.*; oxherd, 6*s.* 8*d.*; cowherd, 6*s.* 8*d.*; swineherd, 6*s.*; a woman labourer, 6*s.*; a day labourer, 6*s.*; a driver of ploughs, 7*s.* From this time up to the twenty-third of Henry IV., the price of labour was fixed by the justices by proclamation. In 1444, twenty-third of Henry IV., the wages of a bailiff of husbandry were 23*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and clothing of the price of 5*s.*, with meat and drink; chief hind-carter, or shepherd, 20*s.*, and clothing, 4*s.*; common servant of husbandry, 15*s.*, clothing, 3*s.* 4*d.*; woman servant, 10*s.*, clothing, 4*s.* In time of harvest, a mower, 4*d.* a day—without meat and drink, 6*d.*; reaper or carter, 3*d.* a day—without meat and drink, 5*d.*; a woman labourer, and other labourers, 2*d.* a day—without meat and drink, 4*d.* a day. By the eleventh of Henry VII., 1496, there was a like rate of wages, only with a little advance.

A Refractory Butt.—In a dispute between Sir Watkin Lewes and Wilkes, the former said, “I'll be your butt no longer.”—“With all my heart,” said Wilkes, “I never liked an empty one.”

Jeremy Diddler.—The fashionable Scamp in the farce of ‘Raising the Wind’ was not an imaginary character. Bibb, a shuffler well known to the wits of the last century, was the original. “I met him,” writes Taylor, “on the day when the death of Dr Johnson was announced in the newspapers, and expressing my regret at the loss of so great a man, Bibb interrupted me, and spoke of him as a man of no genius, whose mind contained nothing but the lumber of learning. I was modestly beginning a panegyric upon the doctor, when he again interrupted me with, ‘Oh! never mind

that old blockhead : have you such a thing as ninepence about you ?' Luckily for him I had a little more."

From Grave to Gay.—Lord Thurlow, visiting one night the Margravine of Anspach, was introduced to Madame de Vaucluse, the writer of 'La Guerre des Betes.' He was so highly entertained that he forgot himself, and left the bag and seals behind him when he retired, which was not till two o'clock in the morning.

Let Workmen be Paid.—Latimer, preaching before Edward the Sixth, made the following appeal in behalf of poor workmen:—"They make their moan," said he, "that they can get no money. The labourers, gun-makers, powder-men, bow-makers, arrow-makers, smiths, carpenters, soldiers, and other crafts, cry out for their dues. They be unpaid some of them three or four months, some of them half a year, yea, some twelve months and cannot be paid. They cry out for their money, and the prophet says, the cry of the workmen is come up to mine ears. O ! for God's love let the workmen be paid, or there will showers of vengeance rain down on your heads."

The Rev. Sydney Smith, M.A., on Puseyism.—A friend addressing the facetious prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral, inquired of him, What is Puseyism? Rev. Mr Smith: Puseyism, sir, is a system of posture and imposture ; of circumflexion and genuflexion ; of bowing to the east and curtseying to the west ; with a variety of other fooleries.

Dreadful Accident at Lord Lovat's Execution.—A catastrophe occurred on Tower hill, on the day Lord Lovat suffered, in 1747, which the ordinary accounts of his final scene do not mention. Just before he came from the Tower, a scaffolding by the Ship alehouse, near Barking alley, built from that house in many stories, with near 1,000 persons on it, fell down all at once, by which eight or ten persons were killed on the spot, and many had their arms and legs broke. Among the killed were Mr Hindman, of the inspector's office ; M. Goldney, woollen-draper, in Blackfriars ; a servant to the king's locksmith ; Mr James Johnson, just come from the West Indies, and three other men ; ten persons died the next day of their bruises, in the London Infirmary and St Thomas's Hospital, as did the master carpenter of the scaffold, and his wife, who was selling beer underneath when it fell.

Amor Patriæ.—The lament of the Duchess d'Abrantes over the treasures reclaimed by the victorious allies in 1815, from the French Museum, presents as fine a specimen of sophistry as can well be imagined. "Here," said she, "the devastating influence of 1815 extended. Yes, I repeat the word devastating, and am not

to be silenced by the murmur, that conquest resumes the fruits of conquest. No, the right is not equitably balanced. Our conquests subdued idleness and indifference to the fine arts. France became the rightful proprietress of all the treasures that by the fate of arms had fallen into her possession, because she knew and appreciated their value." Had a robber possessed himself of her Grace's diamonds, by the same rule he would have been their rightful owner, if "he knew and appreciated their value!"

The Church of England and the Church of Rome.—One of the most remarkable replies we ever remember to have heard is attributed to Mr Outter, the barrister. A learned gentleman hearing the remark that between the Church of England and the Church of Rome there is but a paper wall, promptly replied, "True ! but the whole Bible is printed on that wall."

— Among the distinguished visitors to the Model of Edinburgh in the last week was the Duke of Wellington. His Grace seemed extremely pleased with that extraordinary effort of ingenuity and labour.

— His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, as patron to the "Melodists' Club," dined with them at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 29th ult. His late brother, the Duke of Sussex, was patron for the last thirteen years.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some of the questions on scientific subjects which we receive can only be satisfactorily answered after inquiry made, and references to standard writers. This will explain to more than one correspondent the delay which may have occurred in furnishing information required.

The recipe to which Tyro refers is, in fact, the cheapest because it is the best.

We do not like to reject verses which have some merit in them; but still, where good thoughts are not felicitously expressed, the writers themselves would after a time regret their publication.

Planet.—An equatorial instrument is made use of in practical astronomy. Christopher Scheiner, we believe, was the first to mount a telescope on a polar axis, in the year 1620. Shortly after Galileo invented the simple dioptric telescope.

S. is informed that medallion wafers are made of the best glue, and coloured according to fancy, with vermilion or any pigment. The matter must be pounded on a smooth surface (stone is the best) previously oiled. When nearly cold, they may be stamped with any device, and cut to any size or shape. Let them then dry, and they will be fit for use.

G.—Lip Salve:

Aitkane Root	- - -	1 oz.
Olive Oil	- - -	12 "
<i>Macerate in a gentle heat, until the oil is sufficiently coloured ; add—</i>		
Suet	- - -	16 oz.
Lard	- - -	8 "
Strain, and while cooling, stir in—		
Rosewater	- - -	3 oz.
Altar of Roses	- - -	3 drops.

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